

The 2010 Year In Review Is

Dedicated to **Lamborghini In Black**

BY BOB FUNKHOUSER



Enjoying a workout at home, Lamborghini In Black was ridden by David Rand to win the Park Saddle World Grand Championship in both 2007 and 2010.



Lamborghini's 2010 Open World Grand Championship came after Hannah Kelley had already won the Junior Exhibitor Park Saddle World Championship.

It is with great pride that we are dedicating the 2010 Year In Review to a Morgan Horse for the very first time. This individual transcends breed boundaries and likes; he is a superior equine performer in every way. While there is no doubt the black son of Simply Maserati and JL's Deer Sal is all Morgan, it's not the picturesque structure that makes him a favorite among fans of several breeds. The same intangibles (heart and mind) that separate the great ones from the good ones, are what put our honoree in a category all his own.

Twice Park Saddle World Grand Champion and once Junior Exhibitor Park Saddle World Champion, Lamborghini In Black is our 2010 horse dedication. Ridden to both of those World Grand Championships and currently trained by David Rand, Lamborghini has entertained audiences since 1999, his two-year-old season when he won the World Champion Futurity Two-Year-Old Park Harness title. There have been several trips down victory lane since that time, but there have also been some physical circumstances that most horses would have never overcome. He is an once-in-a-lifetime horse in so many ways.

Bred by Tracy Feitz and James Hangley of Morgan Ridge Farms, Lamborghini In

Black began his education at the Rock Walker Stables and was shown to that two-year-old world championship by Bob Hughes who returned to Oklahoma in 2000 for owner Robin Veghte's Mendonhall and won the World Champion Futurity Three-Year-Old Park Harness and World Champion Three-Year-Old Park Harness titles. There was so much talk about the gifted entertainer and in his four-year-old season it was more of the same. Another trip to Oklahoma resulted in two more victory passes: Grand National Champion Four-Year-Old Park Harness Stallion and World Champion Park Harness Four-Year-Old.

As great as it had been for those first three years, the good luck suddenly ran out. The young stallion was having health issues so much so that he only got to the ring twice in 2002, winning both park harness classes at Far West. In 2003 he almost died twice from pneumonia.

While he was owned by Mendonhall and shown by Bob Hughes, Lamborghini, as were all Mendonhall horses, was managed by Rick Lane. Following his health issues, Lamborghini was shipped east to reside at Lane's Cabot Morgans and returned to the show ring in 2004 winning a couple classes at Mass Morgan. The '05 season was missed and in 2006 Lane

won the Novice Park Saddle class at New England with Lamborghini. It was there that Dr. Grace Steere fell in love with him.

"Grace came to me telling me about this magnificent, black horse she had seen and she just had to have him," explained David Rand. "When I figured out who it was, I told her, 'Oh, that's Lamborghini, he's used up, about dead.' That didn't stop her; she was persistent that we look at this horse. We did and of course the vets told us, don't buy him, he can't breathe and he has other problems. Grace told me that she loved him and wanted him and would take the chance."

They got him home and sure enough, it was what it was. Here was a magnificent animal that wanted more than anything to please but he couldn't do what was physically asked of him. Rand's vet, Dr. Jay Miriam of Mass Equine suggested they take him to New Jersey to a doctor Scott Palmer for an experimental surgery to help his breathing. The surgery was a calculated risk, but one that all parties were willing to take and in the end it was the right decision.

"He had surgery in February and in April we did the UPHA 14 Symphony of Horses," said Rand. "Once he could breathe he gave me everything he had all the time."

That appearance at the Symphony of Horses skyrocketed his under saddle career. He burst through the gate in a cloud of smoke, head back over his withers, marching off both ends and loving life to the fullest. Horsemen of every genre, as well as spectators off the street, went crazy over the performance of this dynamic campaigner. He had a new lease on life and the Rand team was taking the very best care of him.

"Lamborghini In Black is a very unique horse because no matter your breed affiliation, we all appreciate this SHOW horse," said UPHA Vice-President Gary Garone who was a part of the Symphony of Horses where Lamborghini began his under saddle career with Rand. "Consistently now for several owners and divisions I have enjoyed this great individual for his talent, heart and desire to please."

Knowing he had Lamborghini setting on go, Rand took him to the New England Regional next and again had the audience screaming for more. They were the Park Saddle Stallion winners and the East Coast Park Saddle Grand Champion. That fall the trip to Oklahoma would be electrifying. They delivered the blue ribbon from the Park Saddle Stallion class to Dr. Steere and then returned on stake night against the greatest stallions of that time period - Stand And Deliver, HVK Vibrance and Stonecroft Trilogy - to capture the Park Saddle World Grand Championship at the age of 10.

"It was the most amazing time," said Rand. "He just wanted to go and go, I had to remember that he needed some down time to get extra air because he wanted to keep giving and giving. He's that way when he works. I'll come out with him



At UPHA Chapter 14's 2007 Symphony Of Champions, Rand and Lamborghini captured the hearts of the nearly 4,000 people in attendance. That evening was the starting point to his first under saddle world title.

thinking we're just going to go easy, but he's not geared to go easy. He can't help himself. He pretty much rides by himself; you just stay out of the way. We jog him five days a week and try to take great care of him. He's a great one in so many ways but mostly with his personality and the way he can pull his neck back and drive off his back end."

With the first goal accomplished it was time to turn Lamborghini over to Dr. Steere for the amateur division. They started the 2008 campaign winning the open class and Morgan Park Saddle Championship at UPHA 14 Spring Premiere. At Southern States they won the amateur qualifier and were reserve in the championship before turning it on at New England to win the masters class and the Amateur Park Saddle Championship. Oklahoma would be dreams realized for Dr. Steere and Rand as she piloted the ever-popular performer to the Grand National Champion Amateur Park Saddle Stallion title and the Amateur Park Saddle Reserve World Championship. After another successful season in 2009, they captured their second Reserve World Championship.

The year 2010 would prove to be another chapter in the life of this storied superstar. Lamborghini had a new owner and a new game plan. Purchased by the Dan Kelley family, Lamborghini was gelded and being prepared for the Kelley's daughter Hannah to show in junior exhibitor events.

The plan worked as planned as they began the year winning both park classes at UPHA Spring Premiere and then the junior exhibitor titles at CT Morgan. Back on familiar ground, Hannah and Lamborghini were sensational at the New England Regional sweeping the junior exhibitor division. However, Lamborghini wasn't finished with his two junior exhibitor titles; Rand brought him back on Saturday night to win the East Coast Park Saddle Championship as well. Three trips in one week was no problem.

Shaking off the nervousness and a reserve finish in the Junior Exhibitor 15 & Under Park Saddle class at Oklahoma, Hannah and Lamborghini came back to win the World Championship title and like New England, Lamborghini wasn't through. With Rand back in the saddle on stake night there was no denying Lamborghini his second World Grand Championship.

"There was nothing better than taking a 12-year-old girl just out of walk and trot and teaming her with him and winning a world championship," exclaimed Rand. "He's truly a remarkable animal. He's one of the first horses I work every day. There's nothing better than jogging him early in the morning with the sun coming up.

"He is a once-in-a-lifetime horse. I know I'll never have another one like him. He is the definition of a show horse with attitude and a commanding presence. He is also a great example of how a show horse should work: pushing off his back end and then backing off his bridle. He keeps you in line as to how a horse is supposed to feel under you. We just try to keep him super fit and make it interesting for him."

"He's just a grand horse," stated Jenny Taylor who has both shown against Lamborghini and admired him from the rail. "Lamborghini is so athletic and obviously has a great mind. He's the perfect park horse with David [Rand] riding: head up, ears up, legs up, tail up. And then that little girl or an amateur gets on him and he does the same thing. Every time you look at him he's doing his job and loving it.

"When he's on his game, he's unbeatable. He's black, beautiful and never puts a foot out of place."

That about says it all!



Bob Hughes drove Lamborghini to World Champion titles as a two, three, and four-year-old (pictured)